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FraserPapers

Fraser Timber Limited

March 5, 2010

Cynthia Brown
Chief, Section of Administration
Office of Proceedings
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street, SW
Washington, DC 20423

Re: Docket No. AB-1043 (Sub-No. 1), Montreal, Maine & Atlantic Railway, Ltd. – Discontinuance of Service and Abandonment – In Aroostook and Penobscot Counties, Maine

Dear Ms. Brown:

I am writing to you as the Controller of **Fraser Timber Limited**, a lumber manufacturing company located in Ashland and Masardis, Maine. We produce dimensional building lumber that is shipped throughout the Eastern and Southern United States. At capacity we employ 280 workers and produce about 185 million board feet of lumber per year of which 70% is shipped by rail.

We request that the Surface Transportation Board hold a public hearing in Maine on the proposed abandonment of the Madawaska to Millinocket rail line that serve our two locations, as well as several branch lines in northern Maine.

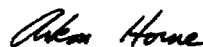
The rail lines that have been proposed for abandonment have provided an essential transportation link to northern Maine for over a hundred years. The rail lines continue to see heavy traffic, transporting wood products, paper products, and other commodities. The rail lines have allowed the rich natural resources of northern Maine to be transported to customers in other regions of the United States. Additionally, the rail lines have facilitated trade between Canada and the United States.

On February 25, 2010, the Montreal, Maine & Atlantic Railway filed an abandonment application at the Board, seeking approval to abandon rail operations on and permanent remove these rail lines. A cessation of rail service would be catastrophic for the northern Maine region, causing the loss of jobs and untold hardship for local communities. When local citizens lose their rail-dependent jobs there is a great likelihood that additional businesses, such as service industries, will also be adversely affected.

A public hearing would provide local citizens, businesses, elected officials and others an opportunity to voice their concerns to the Board regarding the proposed abandonment. Furthermore, the Board would gain insight into the importance of rail service to the area, as well as the severe impact of the abandonment if approved. There is significant community awareness of and concern about the abandonment application, and a public hearing in Maine would facilitate public input on the Board's evaluation of the application.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Arkon Horne, Controller and Officer of the Company